

**Field code of conduct.**

**The NFL and the NFL Players Association collectively bargain an on-field code of conduct for all teams, players and staff members. The result: a well-defined schedule of infractions and fines.**

The NFL and the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) have jointly appointed former NFL player James Thrash to serve as an NFL appeals officer starting in 2015.

Thrash played wide receiver for the Washington Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles from 1997-2008. Following his 12-year playing career, Thrash led player development for Washington, helping coordinate an internship program for players and working with players and their families on financial and education programs. He later joined NFL Player Engagement, serving current and former players for three years.

Thrash brings years of on-field and front office experience to his position as appeals officer, where he will oversee player fines and keep the game safe.

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Players subject to discipline receive a letter informing them of what they did, a video of the play in question, why they are being fined and how much it will cost them. They also receive information on how to appeal the fine. If they choose not to appeal, the fine is withheld from their next game check.

If a player protests a ruling, he schedules a hearing with the NFL, and his case is assigned to one of the league's current appeals officers, Derrick Brooks or James Thrash, who are jointly appointed and paid by the NFL and NFLPA. Cases are assigned randomly, so neither side in the appeals process knows who will hear a case. The officer assigned to the case reviews the play and hears the league's case and the player's defense. The officer's decision is final, and the ruling is binding.

If the appeal is rejected, the league withholds the amount of the fine from the player's next check. If the player wins his appeal, he will receive notification of the decision, and no money will be taken from his check.

**The fines collected do not go to the NFL, but instead go to programs for former players.** The Players Association and the league have agreed to donate fine money through the NFL Foundation to the [NFL Player Care Foundation](#) and the [Gene Upshaw Players Association's Player Assistance Trust](#).

The Player Care Foundation, an independent organization dedicated to helping retired players improve their quality of life, provides programs and assistance with medical, emotional, financial, social and community issues.

The Gene Upshaw Players Assistance Trust assists former players who are facing financial hardship due to unforeseen crisis, unaffordable medical situations and helps those who wish to go back to school to finish their undergraduate degrees.

Since 2009, about \$4 million a year has gone to help former players.

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>FIRST OFFENSE</b>	<b>SECOND OFFENSE</b>
<b>Offense Against Game Official</b>		
Physical Contact With Official	\$28,940	\$57,881
Verbal or Other Nonphysical Offense Against Official	\$23,152	\$46,305
<b>Player Safety Rules and/or Flagrant Personal Foul</b> (including, without limitation):	Suspension or fine; severity to be determined by degree of violation	
<b>(FINES LISTED ARE MINIMUMS).</b>		
Striking/Kicking/Kneeing	\$8,681	\$17,363
Horse-Collar Tackle	\$17,363	\$34,728
Face Mask	\$8,681	\$17,363
Leg Whip	\$17,363	\$34,728

Late Hit	\$8,681	\$17,363
Spearing	\$23,152	\$46,305
Impermissible Use of the Helmet (including illegal launching)	\$23,152	\$46,305
Hit on Defenseless Player	\$23,152	\$46,305
Blind-Side Block	\$23,152	\$46,305
Roughing the Passer	\$17,363	\$34,728
Low Block	\$8,681	\$17,363
Chop Block	\$8,681	\$17,363
<b>Fighting</b>		
Fighting	\$28,940	\$57,881
Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area (active involvement)	\$5,787	\$11,576
Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area (no active involvement)	\$2,893	\$8,681
<b>Sportsmanship</b>		
Excessive Profanity; Other Unsportsmanlike Conduct (e.g., toward opponent[s], game personnel, fans, etc.)	\$11,576	\$23,152
Taunting	\$8,681	\$11,576
Football Into Stands	\$5,787	\$11,576
<b>Uniform</b>		
Foreign Substances on Body/Uniform	\$8,681	\$17,363
Chin Straps	\$8,681	\$11,576
Personal Messages	\$5,787	\$11,576
(Additional fines may be imposed on team management and coaching staffs for condoning, permitting, etc., violations in this area)		
Other Uniform/Equipment Violations	\$5,787	\$11,576
<b>On-Field Commercial Logo Violation</b>	Considered violation of official league licensing agreements; suspension or fine; severity to be determined by degree of violation.	
<b>Gang Signing</b>	Considered conduct detrimental to the league; suspension or fine; severity to be determined in accordance with provisions of the Personal Conduct Policy.	

*Starting in 2012, fine minimums will increase by 5 percent each year as stipulated in the NFL Collective Bargaining Agreement. The increases continue throughout the duration of the current CBA.*

<http://operations.nfl.com/football-ops/fines-appeals/>